

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 through 8 (canceled)

1           9. (Currently amended) A method for desalinating salt-  
2 containing water, which comprises the steps of:

3           (a) passing salt-containing water through a heat  
4 exchanger disposed in a basin containing solar-heated brine formed  
5 by several layers of water lying one above the other in the basin,  
6 each of said layers of water forming the brine having a higher salt  
7 content than the layer present there above, wherein the heat  
8 exchanger is disposed in the lowermost layer of water having a  
9 higher temperature than the temperature of the layers of water  
10 lying above the lowermost layer of water;

11           (b) heating the salt-containing water in the basin using  
12 indirect heat exchange with the solar-heated brine to obtain heated  
13 salt-containing water;

14           (c) evaporating at least part of the heated salt-  
15 containing water to obtain water vapor; [[and]]

16           (d) condensing the water vapor to obtain desalinated  
17 water [[.]]; and

18           (e) passing the desalinated water through a second heat  
19 exchanger disposed in a pit holding the salt-containing water to be  
20 desalinated, to pre-heat the salt-containing water in the pit by  
21 indirect heat exchange with the desalinated water, and supplying

22 the pre-heated salt-containing water to the heat exchanger disposed  
23 in the basin according to step (a).

Claims 10, 11 and 12 (canceled)

1 13. (Previously presented) The method for desalinating  
2 salt-containing water defined in claim 9 wherein according to step  
3 (d) the water vapor is condensed in a condenser, in which a cooler  
4 for supplying cool air is connected to the condenser.

1 14. (Previously presented) A method for desalinating  
2 salt-containing water, which comprises the steps of:

3 (a) passing salt-containing water through a heat  
4 exchanger disposed in a basin containing solar-heated brine formed  
5 by several layers of water lying one above the other in the basin,  
6 each of said layers of water forming the brine having a higher salt  
7 content than the layer present there above, wherein the heat  
8 exchanger is disposed in the lowermost layer of water forming the  
9 brine having a higher temperature than the temperature of the  
10 layers of water forming the brine lying above the lowermost layer  
11 of water and wherein the brine in the basin contains a lower level  
12 of water having a salt content of  $\pm 24\%$ , a middle layer of water  
13 having a salt content of  $\pm 15\%$  and an upper layer of water having a  
14 salt content of  $\pm 0-4\%$ ;

15           (b) heating the salt-containing water in the basin using  
16 indirect heat exchange with the solar-heated brine to obtain heated  
17 salt-containing water;

18           (c) evaporating at least part of the heated salt-  
19 containing water to obtain water vapor; and

20           (d) condensing the water vapor to obtain desalinated  
21 water.

1           15. (Previously presented) The method for desalinating  
2 salt-containing water defined in claim 14 wherein each of the  
3 layers of water is formed to a height of  $\pm 1$  m.

Claims 16 to 18 (canceled)